PARANORMAL UNDERGROUND®

Volume 18, Issue 7 July 2025

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Author & Energy Healer

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Table Of Contents

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

6 Haunted Entertainment
'28 Years Later' Delivers the Dread — and Then Some

8 Investigator Spotlight
Wolf Royalty Paranormal: Exploring the Unknown With Purpose & Precision

12 Special Report
The Paranormal Brain: Can Consciousness Influence the Physical World?

CASE FILES OF THE UNKNOWN

16 Haunted Sites
The Chilling True Story of 46 South Welles Street

22 Are We Alone?
Eerie Audio Phenomena: The Search for Alien Contact

26 Cryptids & Mythological Creatures
The Wendish Nachzehrer: A Tale of Death, Devourment & Dread

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

28 Paranormal Encounters
The Night Visitor: An Unexplained Encounter in Guntown, MS

30 Ghost Hunter Case Files
Game of Demons: A Portuguese Haunting in California

PARANORMAL INSIGHTS

32 Rainbow's Paranormal Corner
Paranormal Storm: The Portal That Appeared in the Rain

36 The Carter Files: Mysteries of the Unknown
Secrets, Spirits & Soldiers: The Strange Case of the Gulf Breeze Six

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Chad has investigated with East Tennessee Paranormal Research Society and counts Waverly Hills Sanatorium, the Villisca Axe Murder House, Bobby Mackey's Music World, the Queen Mary, Queen Anne Hotel, Hotel Alex Johnson, Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, and private residences among his investigations. His passion for the field extends to documenting firsthand experiences and sharing them through in-depth articles, interviews, and multimedia projects.

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Had a Brush With the Unknown? We Want to Hear About It!

If you've had a paranormal encounter and would like to share your story, we'd love to hear from you! Email us at paranormalunderground@live.com and tell us all about your experience. Your account could be featured in an upcoming issue of *Paranormal Underground* magazine.

We're seeking firsthand encounters with all types of paranormal phenomena, including ghosts, cryptids, UFOs/ETs, the spirit realm, psychic phenomena, and beyond. Your submission can remain anonymous if you prefer!

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'28 YEARS LATER' DELIVERS THE DREAD — AND THEN SOME

By Cheryl Knight-Wilson

The long-awaited return to director Danny Boyle's apocalyptic world packs emotional punches, zombie horror, and a shocking twist that keeps the franchise alive.

When news first broke that *28 Years Later* (2025) was finally moving forward, many longtime fans met it with a mix of excitement and cautious skepticism. The original *28 Days Later* (2002) was a lightning-in-a-bottle horror experience — gritty, atmospheric, and terrifying in its intimacy. *28 Weeks Later* (2007) expanded the scope but kept the emotional core. So, what could a third installment, arriving decades later, possibly add?

The answer is: Quite a bit. *28 Years Later* exceeded my expectations in nearly every way. The storytelling is gripping and deliberate, with a palpable sense of tension running through every scene. The pacing balances chaos with character, something many modern horror films often sacrifice in favor of quick jolts. Here, we're given time to care — and that makes the moments of dread hit even harder.

The performances also deserve mention. The cast delivers believable, grounded portrayals in a world that is anything but. It's not just about dodging the infected; it's about navigating grief, trust, betrayal, and the blurry ethics of survival. That emotional grounding is what has always set this franchise apart — the horror is visceral, yes, but it's also deeply psychological.

Each actor delivers a performance that tethers the apocalyptic horror in raw humanity. Jodie Comer (*Killing Eve*, *The Last Duel*) portrays a vulnerable wife battling a mysterious illness. Ralph Fiennes (*Schindler's List*, *Harry Potter*) plays a former doctor turned enigmatic survivalist. Aaron Taylor-Johnson (*Kick-Ass*, *Bullet Train*) gives a charged performance as a rugged scavenger and father. Lastly, Alfie Williams (as Spike, a breakout role) impresses in his feature debut as the curious and resourceful 12-year-old, whose rite-of-passage trip ignites both hope and tragedy.

***28 Years Later* delivers a gripping, emotionally charged return to Danny Boyle's apocalyptic universe, blending visceral zombie horror with haunting questions about humanity's evolution.**

Fans of apocalyptic and paranormal horror will find plenty to appreciate. The zombie action is raw and unnerving, just as we remember — but *28 Years Later* doesn't rely on gore alone. Instead, it introduces eerie, unsettling set pieces that raise bigger questions about what it means to rebuild a world from ruin. One out-of-the-box moment involving a baby will likely be one of the film's most talked-about scenes. Without spoiling it, I'll just say it's equal parts disturbing and thought-provoking — a scene that lingers long after the credits roll.

Speaking of endings, this one lands with impact. The final act doesn't just hint at more to come — it sets the stage for two more already-announced *28 Years Later* movies, making it clear that this revived saga is just getting started. Jack O'Connell's (*Sinners*, *This Is England*) appearance as Jimmy in the closing scene adds a jolt of tension and intrigue, suggesting his character will play a pivotal role in what comes next.

By the time the story concludes, it's clear that the virus is no longer the only threat. In fact, the larger horror may now lie in what humanity has become after nearly three decades of living in fear. That's the franchise's true strength — its willingness to evolve.

If *28 Days Later* was about waking up to the apocalypse and *28 Weeks Later* showed the illusion of containment, then *28 Years Later* asks what happens after survival becomes its own kind of infection. The story suggests that danger doesn't always come in the form of the raging infected — sometimes, it wears a human face.

The scares are real, but it's the human drama that cuts deepest in *28 Years Later*.

This review wouldn't be complete without mentioning Cillian Murphy, the unforgettable Jim from *28 Days Later*. Though he doesn't appear in *28 Years Later*, he served as an executive producer behind the scenes. He's set to make a brief on-screen return in *28 Years Later: The Bone Temple* (slated for release in early 2026), with the final film expected to bring his character back to the forefront — that is, if the first two movies in the new saga perform well enough at the box office to greenlight the finale, according to online sources.

In other words, if you want the full story, go see *28 Years Later*! ◆

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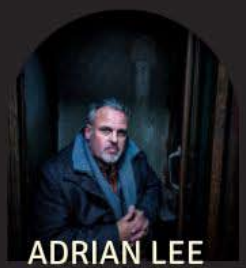

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Wolf Royalty Paranormal

Exploring the Unknown With Purpose & Precision

By Cheryl Knight-Wilson

Some paranormal teams form over time. Others click immediately — no drama, no ego, just shared purpose. That's how Wolf Royalty Paranormal came together.

After a joint investigation at Ashmore Estates in 2024, Kings and Queens Paranormal and Wolfpack Paranormal Investigations GTA realized they worked better together than apart. What started as a one-off collaboration quickly became something more permanent: an international team with aligned goals and mutual respect, focused on respectful investigation, careful review, and building connections in the broader paranormal community.

This isn't a team chasing clicks or drama. They're in it for the long haul: to document what they find, to question what they experience, and to approach the unknown with a balance of curiosity and skepticism.

Keep reading to learn what shapes the team's investigative style — and why they see respect for spirits, clients, and fellow investigators not as an add-on, but as a core part of the work.

* * * * *

Q: Please tell us a little about yourself, both personally and professionally.

Adrian: Outside of the paranormal, I work with special needs in a high school as well as at a group home for special needs adults. I have two kids, one of whom is a probationary member of the team.

I do a lot of sharing of teams within the paranormal field in order to help newer teams build their network.

David: Professionally I work in the industrial field. I've been involved in the paranormal field for about 19 years, starting in 2006 with a recorder and a Motorola Razor.

Samantha and I have been married for 16 years, and both our daughters, Neena (18) and Kelzee (14), are members of the team.

Wolf Royalty Paranormal is dedicated to exploring the unknown with integrity, curiosity, and deep respect for the spirits they encounter. The team approaches every investigation with a commitment to evidence over theatrics and community over competition.

(Pictured front row: Samantha Moody, Kelzee Moody, Neena Moody; back row: Adrian Scott and David Moody)

Adrian Scott (pictured above at left) and Samantha Moody (above, right) recently investigated Billie Creek Village in Rockville, Indiana, where shadow figures and disembodied footsteps and voices are said to haunt the recreated turn-of-the-century village.

Q: When was Wolf Royalty Paranormal founded?

Adrian and David: Wolf Royalty Paranormal was formed in July 2024 after doing a collaboration between Kings and Queens Paranormal and Wolfpack Paranormal Investigations GTA at Ashmore Estates on June 29.

The two teams got along so well and clicked so quickly that it was like reuniting with family. We've had our struggles, ultimately saying goodbye to a few original members of both teams for various reasons, but the crew is stronger and more cohesive as the alignment of goals among the members now matches without serious conflict.

Q: How would you describe your team's overall philosophy or mission when it comes to investigating the paranormal?

Adrian and David: Our philosophy is to explore every aspect of the paranormal with respect — not only for the spirits, but for our fellow teams and investigators. We've all had to start somewhere, so we understand how difficult it can be to break into the field.

As for the spirits we come across, they're people as well, and they deserve the same respect we ourselves would want. We treat their homes as we would want ours treated and show them the proper respect they deserve as people.

Q: What can you tell us about your investigative approach?

Adrian and David: We tend not to ask for a detailed history of accounts until after our investigation so we don't get tunnel vision based on reports. We will share our findings afterwards, which can and have either confirmed or dismissed claims based on whether we were able to debunk what we discovered during our investigation.

Q: How do you determine which cases to take on, and what's your process when you first arrive at a location?

Adrian and David: As we don't take on residential cases, our decision-making process for determining what locations to do is based on places we haven't visited, both well-known and lesser known; the availability of our members, as one is coming to the U.S. from Canada for each investigation; and cost.

If we capture evidence that we can't debunk, that location goes on a list to return to in order to attempt to recreate, explain, or confirm our findings.

Q: Do any team members have specific abilities or sensitivities that play a key role during your investigations?

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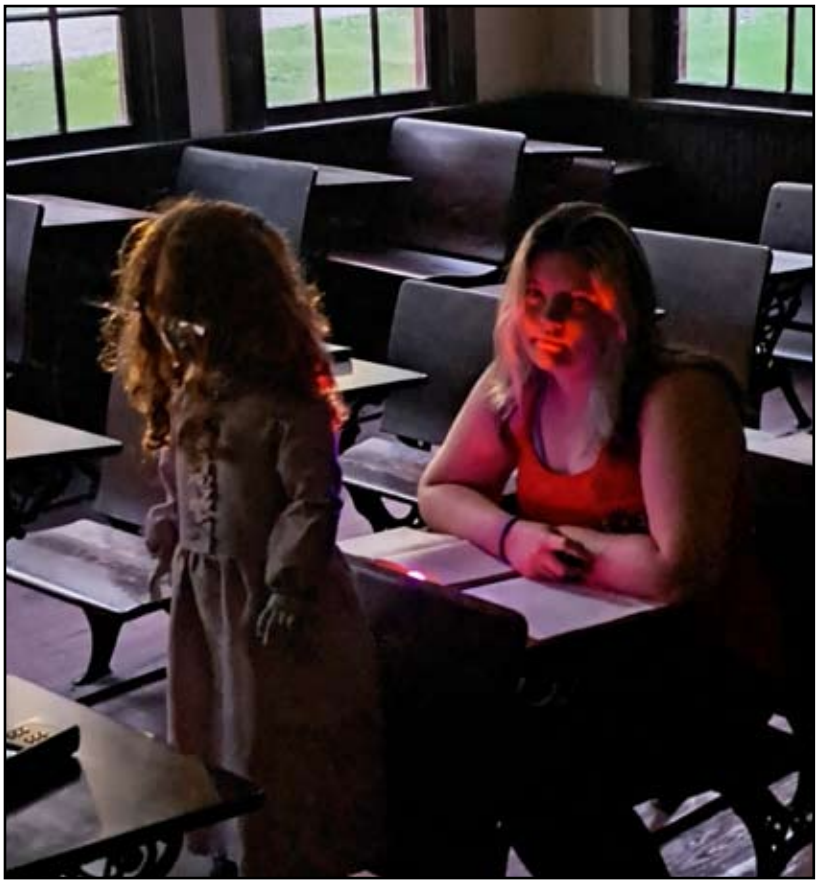

Team members Kelzee (left) and Neena Moody (right) investigate in the schoolhouse and Catholic Church at Billie Creek Village.

Adrian: When it comes to team members abilities, David is able to communicate and see things that are unseen to others. David has had this ability since he was young. When David was a young child and misbehaved, his punishment was to stand in the corner of the bathroom with no lights on.

He was alone at those times, but his parents would hear him talking to someone in the bathroom. David was scared of the dark at that young age, and "the person" would tell him that he was OK and not in danger. That would calm David. At times as a child, David would sometimes be caught talking to things that were not there. Today, nothing has changed. David still gets asked a lot who he is talking to when no one is there. David's wife, Samantha, sees him talking in corners or empty hallways.

David has kept his gift quiet for more than 30 years. In fact, this is the first time he is willing to open up about his gift. He's learned over the years to use his gift to help those that are grieving. He will be the first one to tell you that he will never cross over any spirit. He listens to their stories and moves on.

A cross-border team exploring the unknown with intention.

If someone wants to talk to a relative, he will do everything he can to do so without giving out anything as to how he sees spirits. He has always worried about how people will view his gifts and perhaps accusing him of being a fraud or fake.

David has proven himself to skeptics and non-believers so many times that he believes it is time to open the doors for people to understand that people like him do exist. But he will never call himself a medium or a psychic. He doesn't believe in those terms. He is just someone that can have meaningful conversations with people that some can't see.

Q: What's one piece of evidence your team has captured that you believe defies logical explanation?

Adrian and David: One piece of evidence that we captured that we could not explain, nor could the owner of the location, was a full-bodied apparition captured on a stationary camera at Ashmore Estates.

We shared the evidence with the owner, Robbin Terry, and neither he nor Ashley (who is the caretaker at Ashmore Estates) could explain or recreate what was captured.

Q: How do you balance skepticism and belief when reviewing evidence or client experiences?

Adrian and David: When reviewing our evidence, we look at everything analytically. There is not one person who handles the review to ensure we avoid any personal bias. If something is flagged, it gets sent to the group for consultation on what each person thinks or feels from what is being shared.

Every logical possibility is gone through in order to explain it, and even if there is no explanation the evidence is not immediately classified as paranormal ... it's an anomaly.

We each have other trusted members of the community to share with to gain insight or have other possibilities that we may have overlooked brought to us. We are skeptics and debunkers, but not to the point of dismissing everything.

David Moody brings nearly two decades of paranormal investigation experience to the team.

Q: What's next for Wolf Royalty Paranormal — are you planning new investigations, collaborations, or even public events?

Adrian and David: As for future endeavors for Wolf Royalty Paranormal, we are heading to Ireland in October 2026 with Secret Ireland Tours LLC to run a 10-day, nine-night series of investigations.

We also fully intend to continue to support members of the community whenever possible. There are no collaborations in place currently, but I'm sure we'll join up with a few teams as time progresses.

* * * * *

Find out more about Wolf Royalty Paranormal at Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok. And learn more about joining the team in Ireland here. ◆

The Paranormal Brain

Can Consciousness Influence the Physical World?

By Chad Wilson

The question of whether human consciousness can exert influence beyond the body — on random systems, physical devices, even material objects — has intrigued researchers across disciplines. From early laboratory tests in psychokinesis to large-scale global experiments such as the Global Consciousness Project, the field explores whether our conscious minds can reach out and touch the physical world.

While mainstream science often treats such claims with skepticism, decades of research in parapsychology and consciousness studies suggest there may be subtle but measurable effects. From Random Number Generators (RNGs) to emotionally charged global events, certain patterns have emerged — hinting that our thoughts, beliefs, or collective focus might have an imprint on reality itself.

This article examines the most compelling evidence and theories behind mind-matter interaction, tracing the history of psychokinetic experiments, exploring global consciousness data, and analyzing the mechanisms that might allow thought to affect the physical. Whether you're a hardened skeptic or a curious open-minded explorer, the following sections provide a factual look at what we know — and what we still don't — about the mysterious frontier where mind meets matter.

Historical Exploration: Psychokinesis and the PEAR Lab

The notion that thoughts or intentions can alter physical systems — psychokinesis (PK) — emerged in experimental form through pioneers like J.B. Rhine in the 1930s, and later at Princeton University's PEAR (Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research) lab under Robert Jahn and Brenda Dunne. In one long-term study, volunteers attempted to influence Random Event Generators (REGs) — devices designed to produce unpredictable binary outputs.

Over 15 years and 212 million individual trials, small but statistically significant deviations emerged. As reported by *Wired*, "The operators are roughly altering one bit in 1,000" despite not physically interacting with the hardware.

"That means if you had a coin toss, psychokinesis could affect one of those coin tosses if you tossed a thousand times," said British mathematical physicist Michael Ibison in the report.

PEAR experiments extended beyond RNGs to mechanical systems — such as the "Murphy" Random Mechanical Cascade dropping thousands of balls into bins. Participants were instructed to "think left" or "think right," and modest shifts in ball distribution were noted. Notably, emotionally bonded pairs (e.g., couples) produced stronger effects than unrelated individuals.

Skeptics raised concerns over methodology and sta-

tistical interpretation, and mainstream science largely remains unconvinced. Nonetheless, the breadth of the data and consistency of minor effects make the PEAR studies a hallmark of early mind-over-matter exploration.

Global Scale: The Global Consciousness Project

Building on PEAR's groundwork, the Global Consciousness Project (GCP), founded in 1997, aims to detect whether large-scale collective attention or emotion — such as during major global events — affects RNG systems distributed across the planet. Today, the GCP network comprises approximately 70 hardware RNGs located at host sites worldwide, continuously generating binary data transmitted to a central repository.

GCP researchers report that during moments of intense global focus — such as the September 11 attacks or worldwide broadcasts — statistically significant deviations appeared in the aggregated RNG output.

"The output distribution of data from the REG differs from what would be expected without the influence of consciousness," according to summaries of the project.

The HeartMath Institute recently announced GCP 2.0, which claims a "7 sigma anomaly" after almost 25 years of data collection, suggesting the signal is unlikely to arise by chance alone. The initiative now seeks to explore whether these deviations are causally driven by consciousness or reflect precognition of random fluctuations.

Mechanisms: How Could Mind Influence Matter?

Quantum Processes in the Brain: Some speculative models suggest consciousness arises from quantum processes in the brain. A 2025 study from Shanghai University proposes that the fatty myelin sheath around neuronal axons could serve as a cavity supporting infrared photons that become entangled — creating a kind of "quantum communication resource" within the central nervous system.

The researchers suggest that if tiny particles in the brain become linked through quantum entanglement, it could help neurons sync up and communicate faster. However, they admit this hasn't been proven in living brains. This idea echoes an earlier theory by Roger Penrose and Stuart Hameroff, which claimed that consciousness might come from quantum activity inside the brain's cells — a theory that's still highly debated and not widely accepted by most scientists.

Mind-as-Field Models: Some scientists and philosophers, including David Bohm and Rupert Sheldrake, have suggested that consciousness might be part of an invisible field that connects everything — kind of like gravity or magnetism, but involving thoughts and awareness. Sheldrake calls this idea "morphic resonance," while Bohm described a concept known as the "active information field."

The GCP often cites Bohm's work, especially his idea

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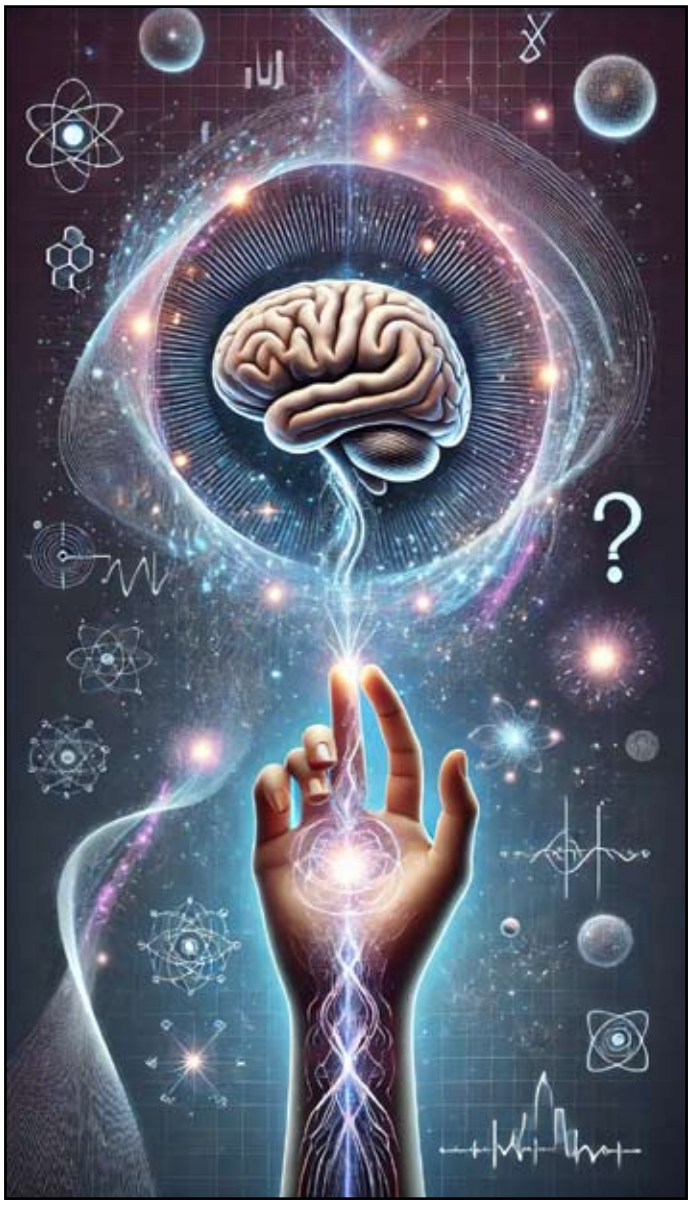


of the holomovement — a constantly flowing and interconnected whole where mind and matter aren't separate, but two aspects of the same deeper reality. In this view, what we think and feel might not just stay in our heads, but ripple out into the world around us in subtle ways.

Another philosophical idea, called dispositionalist causality, suggests that cause and effect don't always follow fixed laws, like clockwork. Instead, outcomes may emerge from deeper tendencies or "built-in" potentials — almost like nature leaning toward certain possibilities.

Some scholars believe this perspective helps explain how consciousness or intention might influence physical systems, even if the effect is small or unpredictable. In this view, the mind could act a bit like a quantum field, nudging events without directly forcing them — especially in situations where chance plays a big role.

Experimental Parapsychology: Ganzfeld and Meta Analyses

Beyond RNG-focused studies, the ganzfeld experiments have been used to test extrasensory perception (telepathy, clairvoyance). Participants under sensory deprivation attempt to receive mental impressions remotely. While early meta-analyses claimed slight above-chance hit rates, critics identified reproducibility problems, procedural flaws, and statistical biases.

By the 1980s, researchers such as Ray Hyman and Charles Honorton agreed that earlier studies failed to meet rigorous methodological standards, and later "auto-ganzfeld" versions produced little consistent evidence for psi beyond random expectation.

More recent meta-analyses (1997–2008) reported 32% hit rates vs. the 25% expected by chance, with statistical significance. But those analyses were challenged as including weak studies, and critics say results haven't been independently replicated reliably. Overall, the scientific consensus remains skeptical of ganzfeld findings.

Skeptical Perspectives and Scientific Limits

Many scientists emphasize that existing physical laws — such as thermodynamics and quantum mechanics — offer no mechanism by which consciousness can alter physical events without energy transfer. Sean Carroll, for instance, argues the laws of nature as currently understood strongly rule out spoon bending or mind influencing random devices, unless new physics is discovered.

Most physicists agree that you don't need consciousness to explain how things behave at the quantum level. The idea that the mind plays a direct role in shaping physical reality through quantum effects is still speculative and not widely accepted in mainstream science.

What the Evidence Shows: Small Effects, Big Questions

Studies from the PEAR lab found that people trying to mentally influence random devices or simple machines had very small effects — barely noticeable, about one change in every thousand tries. Still, these results showed up often enough in the lab to raise eyebrows.

The Global Consciousness Project found that during major global events — such as disasters or mass celebrations — its worldwide network of random number generators sometimes produced patterns that were different from what you'd expect by chance. Some researchers believe this points to a link between collective human emotion and the physical world. But critics argue the results could be due to how the data was chosen or analyzed.

Theories about a quantum mind — such as the Orch OR model or ideas involving entangled particles in brain cells — suggest that consciousness may have roots in quantum physics. These ideas are fascinating, but so far they haven't been proven in real-world experiments.

Finally, studies using the ganzfeld technique — where people try to mentally "receive" images or thoughts while in a relaxed, low-sensory environment — have produced mixed results. Some researchers found above-chance success rates, but others couldn't repeat the results. Because of this, mainstream science remains cautious about claiming anything definitive.

Could the mind subtly shape reality itself? Consciousness may touch matter, but how & when?

Why It Matters — and What Comes Next

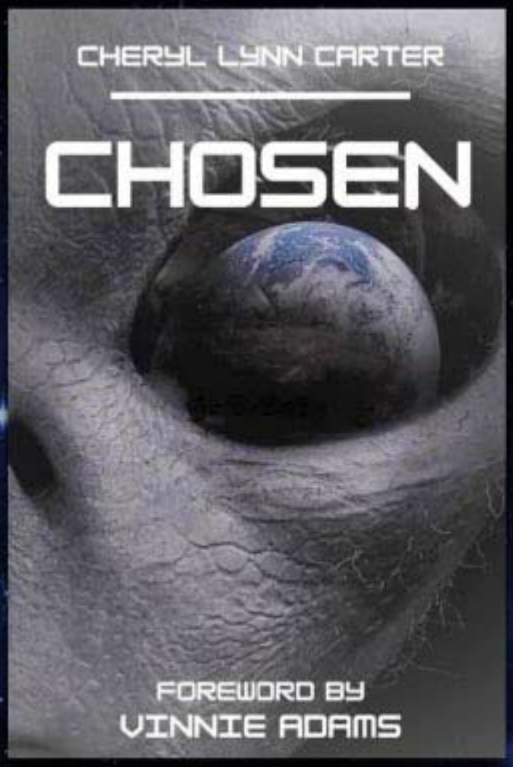
If consciousness can indeed influence matter, even weakly, that would upend foundational assumptions in physics, neuroscience, and philosophy. It could provide a scientific basis for psi phenomena long relegated to folklore and popular paranormal lore.

Next steps for research include running better-controlled experiments that can be reliably repeated, making study plans more transparent through preregistration, and combining neuroscience tools (such as brain imaging) with psychokinesis research. The long-term goals of GCP 2.0 — especially its focus on testing whether effects are caused directly or seen in advance — could help clarify key questions. In the meantime, it's crucial for physicists, philosophers, psychologists, and parapsychologists to work together to sharpen the theory and eliminate possible errors or false signals.

A Subtle Force or Statistical Illusion? The Debate Continues

While mainstream science remains skeptical, research into psychokinesis and collective consciousness — rooted in large datasets and decades of experiments — continues to intrigue. Tiny deviations in RNGs and analog systems hint that the mind might, under certain conditions, influence matter — not by force, but through subtle statistical shifts. Whether this reflects new physics, artifacts of pattern detection, or unknown phenomena, it demands rigorous investigation.

Consciousness remains one of the great mysteries of modern science. Whether it influences physical reality or remains a silent witness to it, the quest to understand the "paranormal brain" drives us toward deeper questions about reality, intention, and the limits of human understanding. ◆



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MARIO WOODS

The Chilling True Story of 46 South Welles Street

By Maxim W. Furek

The Welles House is not an example of the romantic Victorian ghost story where the visitor experiences flickering lights, objects that move by themselves, or the specter of a woman dressed in white floating down an ornate stairway.

No, the house was a decades-long crime scene bleeding of suicide and unexplained death. It is anything but romantic, closer to Lovecraft than to Poe, and frightening in its realism and obscurity.

Was a voodoo curse placed upon the Welles House as some believe? Was there a demonic presence that had infested the dwelling? And why has this structure — rooted in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, just outside the desolate coal fields — suffered so mightily from the jaundice and fear of the paranormal?

Located on 46 South Welles Street, the 2,092-square-foot structure was constructed in 1861 by industrialist Augustus C. Laning (1808–1875). Although Laning's life was successful by any measure, it was marred by horrible elements of tragedy and misfortune. Over the years, the Welles House of horror (and those words have been carefully chosen) experienced a series of events, including unexplained apparitions, suicides, and mysterious deaths.

In fact, the Welles House is listed in the *Northeastern Pennsylvania Scene* as one of "The Nine Most Haunted Places in NEPA," described in seven unsettling words: "This damned place has a sordid history." Zack Coffman of One World Studios said that the place "was widely reported in the 70's as being a more dangerous haunting than Amityville." Whichever is more dangerous, the Wilkes-Barre property leaks out its own alchemy of high strangeness.

Does evil exist? And, if so, does it remain in one place or move on to its next prey? The following is a chronological listing of those unfortunates who resided at the Welles Street property, leaving behind a testimony of horror and death, and a possible answer to our question.

The Welles House in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, has long been called one of the most haunted homes in America. Paranormal investigators report unexplained bloodstains, disembodied voices, and ghostly apparitions that echo through its aging halls.

Built in 1861 by industrialist Augustus C. Laning, this unassuming house hides a violent legacy.

Augustus C. Laning: The Victim

According to an article in *The Citizen's Voice* newspaper entitled "Somewhere in Time" (2020), Augustus C. Laning was an impressive and essential public official:

Laning served as the 18th burgess (mayor) of Wilkes-Barre and was a member of the city council when Wilkes-Barre was incorporated as a city in 1871. Laning presented the city with its first steam fire-engine, the "Mechanic." In 1874 when the city purchased its second steamer, it was named the "A.C. Laning" in honor of his contributions to the fire department. Laning also served as Luzerne County prison commissioner, the first president of The Miners Savings Bank of Wilkes-Barre, treasurer of the Wilkes-Barre Bridge Co., director of The Wyoming Bank of Wilkes-Barre and a member of Lodge No. 61.

At age 14, Laning came to Wilkes-Barre to work with his grandfather, Matthias Hollenback, as a clerk in his mercantile business. This hands-on training would prove to be the cornerstone of his brilliant career. Laning, the epitome of incredible business and marketing prowess, erected a stone building and iron foundry on Wilkes-Barre's Public Square in 1832. He was only 24 years old and one of the first iron casting manufacturers in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

In 1846, Laning inherited from his mother the land on what is today Welles Street. But the tranquil homestead he envisioned, as one local historian noted, was "a land soaked in blood and turmoil," having been the site of wars and conflict between the indigenous tribes who occupied it and European invaders.

Tragedies unfolded like biblical prophecy. In 1850, his nephew was burned alive in a barn fire while trapped under a 1,200-pound horse corpse. After this, one of Laning's factories burned down, while another man, Joseph Brett, inexplicably dropped dead while walking past the Laning estate.

The website *Haunted Places* documented the horror of Welles House:

Saw two suicides and four deaths; residents have

→

The Welles House has driven multiple families to flee without their belongings. Some claim a curse or entity lingers inside — watching, waiting, and feeding on human despair.

been known to have suffered from mental and physical illnesses and alcoholism. Families who lived here in the 1970s described unexplained depression and illnesses along with many other eerie events, including unexplained bangs, booted footsteps, scurrying sounds, shrieks, moans, bloody spots appearing on living room walls, and the ghosts of a well-dressed man and young girl. Scratches in threes appeared on their bodies, and a daughter was pushed down the stairs but simply floated to the bottom unhurt.

Laning was 67 when he died in 1875. In the late 19th to the mid-20th century, the house went through three public auctions, what locals called "sheriff sales." The property sold for just one dollar — about $25.00 in today's money — at a May 1939 auction. Many believed that an evil presence lurked inside. Suicides were documented in newspapers in 1940 and again in 1950.

A cursed corner of Wilkes-Barre, where tragedy clings like smoke to every room.

Walter Bennett: The Renter

The Welles House is a credible example of the bizarre. Like Amityville and the Smurl Haunting, it checked off all the paranormal boxes. According to *Pennsylvania Paranormal*, "The house is rumored to be extremely haunted, possibly by demonic activity, and (despite that activity) has been rented around 50 times throughout its existence."

Walter Bennett was one of those renters and resided at the home from 1979 until March 1982. In a series of articles from 1979 to 1982, *The Times Leader* explained why Bennett moved out of his property. Bennett claimed that a well-dressed stranger kept knocking at his door in the dead of night and that he observed specters and pools of blood in the living room: "He described the ghostly figures of a well-dressed man with a cane and a girl in a nightgown, inexplicable sounds coming from the attic and walls, and bloody spots on walls and pools in the living room."

Bennett said he witnessed his daughter trip at the top of a steep flight of stairs in January 1977 and float in slow-motion through the air to land on her feet at the bottom, unharmed. His wife witnessed the same thing a month later. What stalked the Bennett family was outside the realm of science. A priest was brought in to bless the house and excise the demons.

Before insanity took hold of the Bennetts, something had to be done. After hearing continuous strange sounds coming from a back bedroom, Bennett took matters into his own hands. He picked up a sledgehammer and knocked down the wall. There, he discovered a tin box containing a red ribbon, human molars, and chicken bones that were tied together to form a cross.

Bennett believed that in the mid-1860s, someone had used the objects to place a voodoo curse on the owner, Augustus C. Laning. Bennett said that a photo of Laning, found in the house, was of the same man who kept knocking on his door.

The family only stayed in the home for three years, and in March 1978, they fled the house, leaving behind expensive electronic equipment and many other belongings — never to return. The bank foreclosed on the property and rented the house for several years, until Katherine Watkins bought the house.

Ed and Lorraine Warren: The Demonologists

If anything, the Warrens were proactive, their ears attuned to the paranormal vibration. They visited the Welles Street property in March 1980. A photograph of

The property once sold for just $1 at auction, as if even the market couldn't bear its burden. Yet thrill-seekers and ghost hunters continue to be drawn to its shadows.

Lorraine shows her holding her hand "as if in pain" as she emerged from the home. She told reporters:

I sense a terrible despair. The effects on people who lived in this house were very, very negative. There were separations and personality changes. People who lived here were driven to self-destruction of the body through drugs, alcohol, even suicide. I sense the smell of gin and heavy drinking.

Lorraine Warren said the house was occupied by an "earth-bound" spirit ghost who had been unable to "pass through to the other side." She thought it might be the spirit of a "burly German-type man, perhaps a blacksmith by the name of Heister."

In February 2014, the Warrens' nephew, John Zaffis, a paranormal investigator, spent several days inside the house using special equipment, with questionable results.

Katherine Watkins: The Resident

Katherine Watkins purchased the four-bedroom, mortgage-foreclosed Welles property in August 1982 for $20,000. Her modest investment generated an article with the headline, "Haunted House Sold in Heights." Watkins told reporters she was not afraid of ghosts — and she resided there for the next 30 years.

Watkin's daughter, Stacey Evans, said, "Katherine liked her house so much that she wanted to die there."

After she died on October 26, 2012, her daughter inherited the house (assessed at that time at $63,200) and listed it for sale at $30,000. City resident Betsy Summers, who lived across the street and cared for the property, helped the family sell it. She designed the advertisement to stir up interest. In 2013, she advertised the house as an "authentic haunted house" to promote its notoriety: "It has a pretty nasty reputation. I take care of what I have to do and get out. I try to ignore any noises I hear."

Summers, a veterinary sales worker, said her friend Watkins told her that her family experienced a number of unexplained phenomena, such as a shaking bed, moving objects, and a light or television turning off when the power was still on. Summers said ghost hunters have captured paranormal activity in photographs and audio recordings.

Truth and beauty rest in the eye of the beholder, nevertheless, and a representative of the mortgage holder called out the "ridiculous publicity" about the haunting. She said the property had been remodeled and occupied by tenants who verified that the property "was not haunted."

Tim Woods: The Ghost Hunter

Haunted or not, in December 2013, Tim Wood, founder and lead investigator of *LiveSciFi*, bought the home for only $41,000. The property was run down, desperately in need of renovation and, according to some, cursed. At the time, the property was described as a modest four-bedroom, two-bath wooden house on a street of similar properties.

It had grey-green wooden siding and a small front yard. Woods, however, had not bought the house to renovate and live in; he purchased a notoriously haunted house ... on purpose.

Woods had a life-long interest in ghosts and had lived in a haunted house as a child. The Welles House promised him a virtual treasure chest of alleged ghostly apparitions. He intended to gather evidence for an upcoming Welles House documentary, *Paranormal Evidence Clip*. Since his purchase, he conducted several investigations, collecting evidence showing pools of blood, weird scratches, and a video of an investigator's shirt being tugged.

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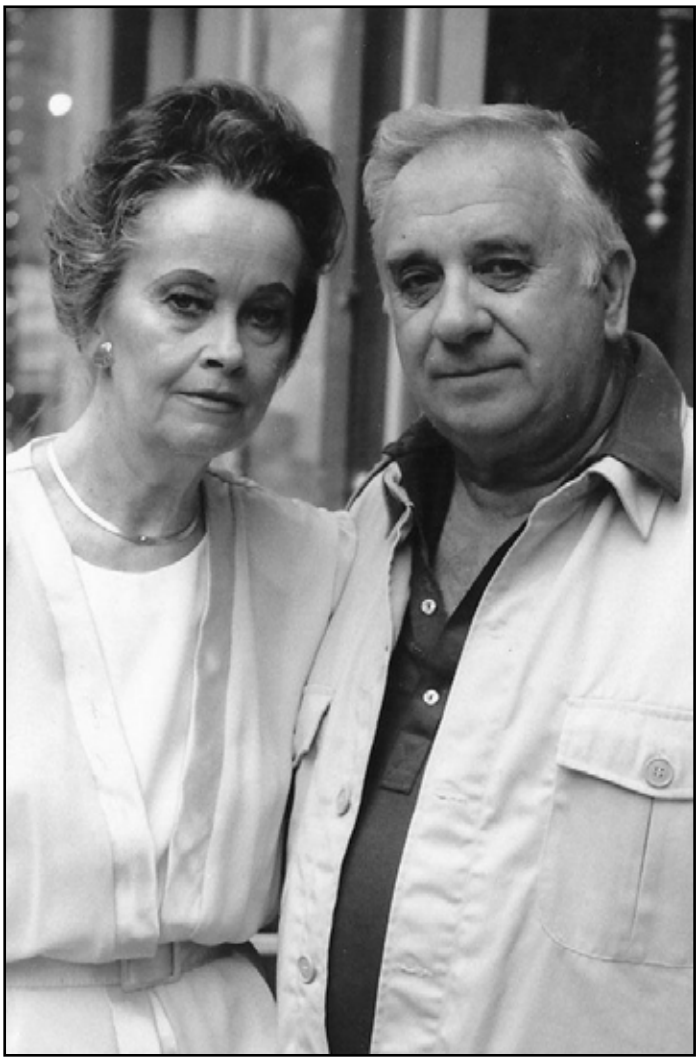

Renowned demonologists Ed and Lorraine Warren visited the Welles House in 1980, drawn by its growing reputation as a site of extreme psychic disturbance. Lorraine emerged visibly shaken, describing a lingering despair inside and the oppressive presence of a spirit bound to the house by trauma and addiction.

Anthony Parker: The Prowler

The Welles House's haunted reputation has even attracted trespassing ghosthunters. In 2018 Anthony Parker, 33, was arrested for nighttime prowling. He had entered the Welles House armed with a shotgun, sword, silver brass knuckles, a folding pocketknife, and a copy of the *Bible*. He said that he was "looking for ghosts."

Police found a Chrysler minivan parked in front of the home facing the wrong direction and heard movement from the back of the property. According to media reports:

When officers circled around the home, they found Parker holding a pry bar in his left hand, with a 24-inch sword tied to his back, the charges say. Parker was also wearing red gloves despite the warm weather, police said.

Parker's Crown Royal bag contained 10 shotgun shells tied to his belt. The trespasser said he had left the shotgun at home, but police found a loaded pistol-grip shotgun at the rear of the house.

An interesting and appropriate disclaimer appeared on the *Haunted Places* website. The message advised:

Please note: It is your responsibility to acquire appropriate permission before investigating any location listed on this site. Private property should be respected at all times, as should all posted signs concerning trespassing, hours of operation, and any other local regulations. Many "ghost hunters" have been arrested because they failed to contact property owners and/or local authorities ahead of time.

Anthony Parker was one of them, and he paid the price for disrespecting the ghosthunter's protocol.

Paranormal researchers investigating the Welles House have theorized that the roaming spirits might be either that of Augustus Laning or Katherine Watkins, who had lived in the house from 1982 until she died in 2012.

Durinda Stewart, author of *Native Spiritual Realms: A Guide to Native American Paranormal*, believes that "when an individual dies and becomes a ghost," they are left with a cascade of emotions, guilt, sadness, and regrets:

Behind the house's plain exterior lies a history of blood, madness, and forces that defy explanation.

In general, ghosts are stuck; they tether themselves to an object by obsession, such as a house, a bed, or a musical instrument (piano), which are the most common objects of attachment. Since they still are human in mind, they go through the stages of their acceptance of death, which are denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance.

Stewart assumes that many ghosts don't know they are dead because they are in the denial stage and are earthbound, either roaming the land or haunting a house. She says that demons are predators looking for what they perceive as prey and that demonic possession is only a temporary tool of the demon, which can last for days to centuries, if the energy lasts. She says, "Don't confront, but respect the energy."

Does that dark energy still exist? With a history extending over 150 years, the Welles House is a reminder that, in the heart of the city and in the darkness of the forest, demonic forces don't always remain with a single person, place, or thing, but can move on to more vulnerable prey.

Although the Welles Curse appears to have been lifted, be forewarned that it may be lurking elsewhere.◆

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EERIE AUDIO PHENOMENA

THE SEARCH FOR ALIEN CONTACT

By Cheryl Knight-Wilson

We often imagine alien contact arriving in grand fashion — a glowing ship descending over a city, or a humanoid stepping from a shimmering beam of light. But what if the real message has already arrived? Not in images or artifacts, but in something far more elusive: sound.

From the eerie droning of mysterious number stations to unexplained space signals that defy classification, there's a whole category of phenomena that doesn't get the same spotlight as UFO sightings or abduction tales. These are the *heard* but not *seen* — the signals in the silence.

The Signal That Made SETI Sit Up

Let's start with one of the most famous space mysteries of all time: the "Wow! signal." Detected on August 15, 1977, by astronomer Jerry R. Ehman while working with Ohio State's Big Ear radio telescope, this 72-second radio burst was so startling that Ehman circled it on the printout and scrawled the word "Wow!" next to it.

The signal came from the constellation Sagittarius and bore all the hallmarks of a real extraterrestrial transmission. But here's the kicker — it never repeated. Despite years of follow-up, the signal vanished as suddenly as it arrived. You can see the original printout here.

Ehman himself remained skeptical of an alien origin, saying in interviews he doubted it came from an intelligent source — but admitted, "It's the best candidate we've ever picked up." And it still hasn't been explained away.

Number Stations: Ghosts of the Cold War or Something More?

If you've ever stumbled upon a shortwave radio transmission that makes your skin crawl, you might have encountered a "number station." These cryptic broadcasts, which read off strings of numbers, tones, or distorted voices, are believed to have been used for espionage, especially during the Cold War. Yet many still operate today, decades after their supposed purpose ended.

Take UVB-76, nicknamed "The Buzzer." It's been transmitting a low, repetitive buzzing sound from somewhere near Moscow since the late 1970s. Occasionally, a male voice breaks through with Russian words or number codes — and then silence returns.

While the prevailing theory is that these stations are military placeholders or encrypted message systems, some in the fringe community wonder: Are they masking some-

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thing else? Could alien intelligences be hiding their signals in plain (audible) sight?

When the Cosmos Speaks

The Wow! signal isn't the only strange sound from space. NASA and other space agencies have recorded peculiar noises from deep space — some the result of plasma waves, magnetic field interactions, or radio emissions from planets. But some audio captures defy easy classification. One example: In 2001, the Cassini spacecraft recorded what researchers later described as "chorus-like" emissions near Jupiter. The sound is eerily organic, like dolphin chatter slowed down.

Then there's the "space roar," a loud radio signal detected by ARCADE (Absolute Radiometer for Cosmology, Astrophysics, and Diffuse Emission) in 2006. The noise was six times louder than expected, and no one knows where it's coming from. The unexpected signal left researchers stunned.

So, what's producing these mysterious sonic artifacts? Cosmic background radiation? Unknown natural processes? Or something artificial, reaching out across the stars?

A Message Misunderstood?

Here's a provocative thought: What if alien contact has already happened but we didn't recognize it?

The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) Institute has long operated on the assumption that extraterrestrials will use narrow-band radio waves to communicate. But what if their tech doesn't work like ours? Or what if they communicate in bursts, in frequencies we're not watching, or in ways that mimic natural noise?

The unsettling possibility is that we may have intercepted alien signals — perhaps many times — but filtered them out as "noise" because they didn't fit our expectations.

Unlike visuals, sound doesn't require shared symbols or writing. It travels across voids and through materials. It can encode emotion, intention, even urgency. That's why so many contact theories — both fringe and mainstream — continue to emphasize sound.

From the beeping of Sputnik to the complex hums of our own satellites, space has become a theater of transmission. But who's listening? And more importantly ... who's *sending*?

Final Frequencies

It's easy to dismiss strange sounds as just that — strange. But when patterns repeat, when signals stand out from background static, when they *feel* like messages, we should at least consider the possibility that someone — *something* — might be speaking.

Maybe the truth is already out there, humming faintly through the static, waiting for us to tune in.◆

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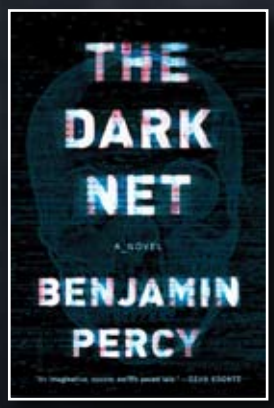

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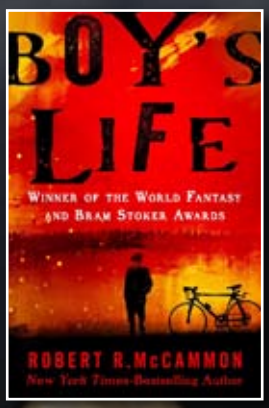

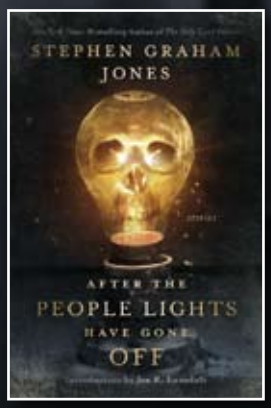

THE WENDISH NACHZEHRER

A TALE OF DEATH, DEVOURMENT & DREAD

By Corey Sharer

Among the lesser-known but chilling figures of European folklore lies the Nachzehrer, a type of revenant or undead being originating from Wendish (Slavic-Germanic) traditions, particularly from regions such as Lusatia in eastern Germany and parts of Poland.

The term "Nachzehrer" roughly translates to "after-devourer," a name as eerie as the legends surrounding it. This folkloric vampire is distinct from the more romanticized versions found in modern literature — it does not charm or seduce, but instead feeds on the living through grotesque and terrifying means.

Unlike the classic vampire, the Nachzehrer does not usually rise from the grave to seek its victims in the night. Instead, it remains in its tomb, and its consumption takes place from within the burial site.

Wendish folklore tells of Nachzehrers chewing on their own burial shrouds, gnawing at their limbs, or even consuming their own flesh. Disturbingly, this act of self-devouring is believed to cause the slow wasting death of the living relatives of the deceased. Every bite taken by the Nachzehrer, it was said, would result in sickness, disease, or death among family members above ground.

What set the Nachzehrer apart in Wendish lore was not just its hunger, but its origin. People believed that one could become a Nachzehrer not only by suicide, but also through an improper burial, being the first person to die during a plague, or even being born with certain abnormalities, such as a caul (a membrane over the face). Some traditions said that if a corpse was found lying face-up in its coffin, mouth open and eyes wide, it had already become a Nachzehrer.

The fear of this vampire led to several macabre preventive measures. Gravediggers and villagers were known to place a stone or coin in the mouth of a corpse, sew the lips shut, or bury the body face-down. Another common tactic was placing a net or pile of soil in the coffin, based on the belief that the Nachzehrer would be compelled to count the grains or untangle the knots, distracting it from feeding.

The Nachzehrer was sometimes associated with plagues and mass death. In the wake of disease outbreaks, villagers occasionally exhumed bodies believed to be the cause and found signs such as blood at the mouth or bloated corpses, which were taken as evidence of vampirism. To "stop" the Nachzehrer, the body might be decapitated, have its heart removed and burned, or be reburied with protective rites.

While tales of the Nachzehrer are not as globally known as Dracula or the Slavic Strigoi, they offer a darker, more visceral look into European vampire lore. The Wendish Nachzehrer embodies fear of improper death, disease, and the mysterious connection between the dead and the living — a reflection of ancient anxieties still echoed in modern horror. ◆

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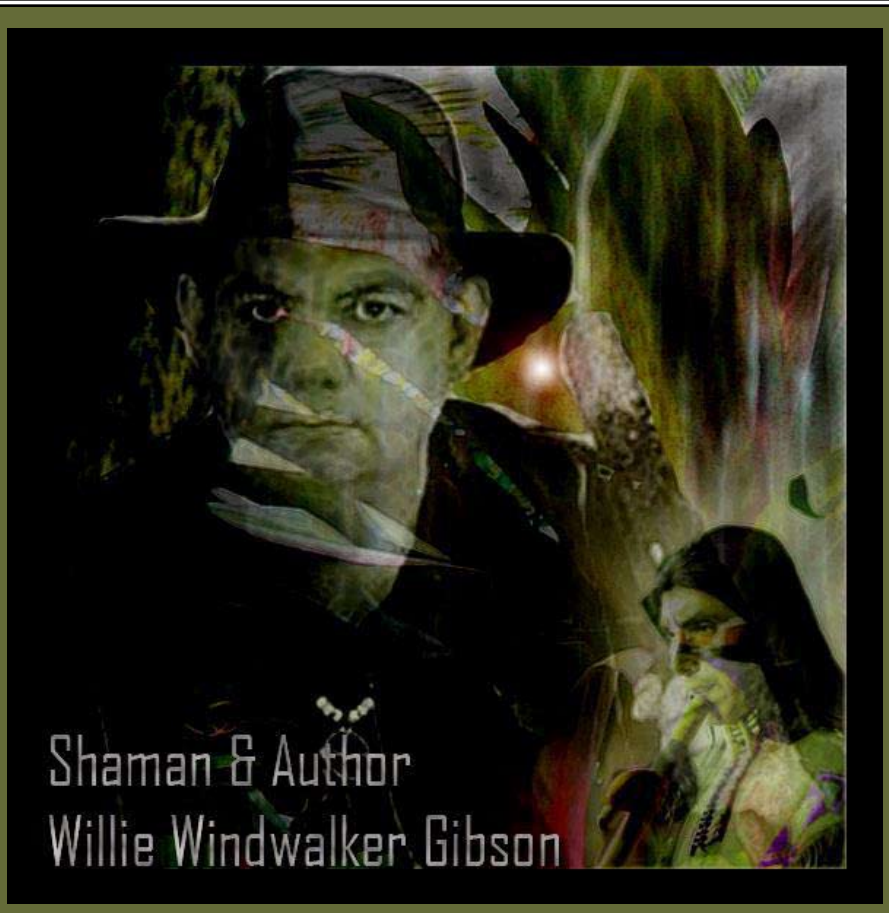

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THE NIGHT VISITOR

AN UNEXPLAINED ENCOUNTER IN GUNTOWN, MS

By Chad Wilson

It was sometime after midnight in Guntown, Mississippi, during one of those long, restless teenage summers. I was sitting on the front porch because I couldn't sleep. The air was thick, but not stormy.

It was the kind of heat that didn't move, the kind that settles into everything. The neighborhood was silent. No cars. No crickets. No voices from inside the houses. Just stillness and the dim wash of light from the streetlamps.

That's when I saw it.

Something moved into view from the left side of the road. At first, I thought it might be a dog. But as it came closer, it didn't move like a dog at all. It hopped, lightly, almost effortlessly, into the edge of the streetlight's glow, and I could see it more clearly.

It looked like a rabbit with its ears laid back along the back of its head, but it was far too large. Easily two to three feet tall at the back, with a humped posture that gave it an unusual, unfamiliar outline. Its movements were smooth and unhurried, and it came to a stop just to the right of my field of view.

Its eyes stood out. They might have been reflecting the light from the streetlamp, or they might have been glowing. I can't say for sure. But they were small, round, and bright, and they seemed to be focused directly on me.

The creature didn't flinch or flee. It simply paused and looked. It felt, in that moment, like it was aware of me sitting there looking at it.

I stayed still. Not out of fear, but out of focus. I was trying to take in exactly what I was seeing. There was nothing frantic or erratic in its behavior. It was calm. Controlled. Then, just as quickly, it was gone.

The moment it decided to move, it moved fast — faster than I expected. I heard the rhythmic thudding of its footfalls on the pavement as it sprinted away down the road. It wasn't the bounding gait of a typical rabbit, and it didn't seem to struggle with its size or speed. It simply ran, and within a few seconds, it had disappeared into the darkness.

I've thought about that night many times over the years. I've looked up animals native to the area, searched for oversized hares, and tried to come up with something that could explain the size, the behavior, and the strange moment of eye contact. But nothing has ever quite matched.

I never saw it again. ◆

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GAME OF DEMONS

A Portuguese Haunting in California

By Paul Dale Roberts, Halo Paranormal Investigations

Three days ago, Ana S. contacted me with a troubling claim — she believed something had attached itself to her. For the past three months, Ana had been hearing unexplained banging on the walls of her Sacramento home. It wasn't just her. Her husband, Luis, said he felt a sudden burning sensation on his lower back. When he checked, he found an unexplained red mark. Ana traced it all back to their recent trip to Portugal to visit family.

A Game That Opened a Door

While staying with relatives, her niece had been playing a card game using a deck called Baralho Doppel – Demônios Da Goétia. Though it can be used as a standard deck for card games, this particular version includes imagery of demons from the Goétia — a type of European occult tradition known for summoning spirits.

Ana's niece, while playing the game with friends, had reportedly been invoking the Cucuy — a terrifying figure rooted in Portuguese and Spanish folklore. The creature is often described as a child-snatching boogeyman with shapeshifting abilities.

One night, Ana awoke to the sound of her niece yelling in her sleep: "Cucuy, Cucuy," followed by three desperate cries of "I'm sorry." The next morning, the girl said a demon who called himself Cucuy had appeared to her, terrifying her in a dreamlike state she swore felt real.

Ana became convinced that this entity had followed them back to Sacramento. Since their return, the house had taken on a heavy, uneasy atmosphere. She described cold spots that would suddenly appear in the hallway and a lingering sense of being watched.

An Unseen Force in the Closet

I brought psychic medium Wish Fire to assist in our team's investigation of Ana and Luis' home. She immediately picked up on a dark energy inside the home and was drawn to a specific closet, saying the presence was hiding there. The

energy felt intelligent — like it was waiting, watching, and not yet finished with the family, according to Wish Fire.

I conducted an EVP session near the area and captured a distinct growling sound — our only piece of audio evidence from the visit. There were no pets in the home and no mechanical systems nearby that could explain the sound.

In response, I performed a Roman Catholic house blessing, followed by an aspersion baptism for both Ana and Luis. Wish Fire then completed a full smudging of the home and cleansed both clients. The atmosphere in the home felt lighter afterward, but we cautioned the couple to remain vigilant.

Ana later informed us that the card deck had been confiscated from her niece while they were still in Portugal. The family burned the deck in an effort to sever any lingering connection to the ritual.

We'll be staying in close contact with Ana and Luis to monitor how things unfold and determine whether further cleansing or intervention will be needed. ◆

Maxim W. Furek

Pennsylvania's Iconoclastic Paranormal Author

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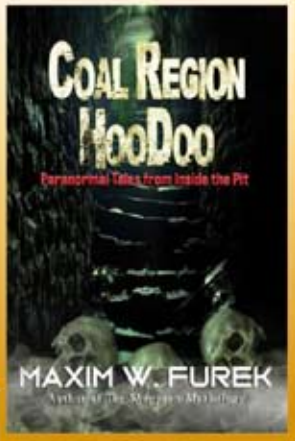

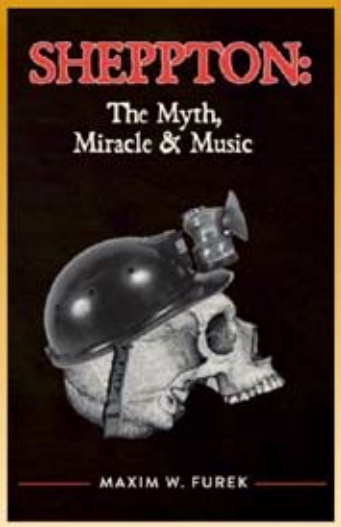

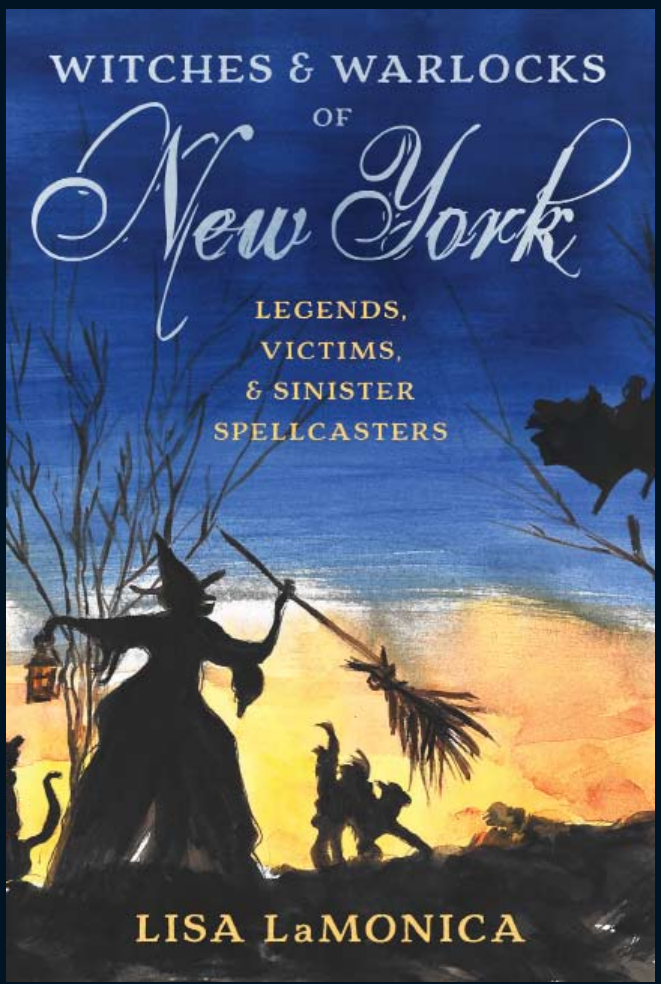

New York has a surprisingly rich and lasting history of witches and witchcraft.

"Witches and Warlocks of New York" is a collection of legends and historical accounts about witches and warlocks from the Empire State.

Included are a history and origins of witchcraft in New York State and historical tales of "witches" across the state, including Hulda, the witch who was the origin behind a Brothers Grimm fairy tale and inspired parts of Washington Irving's "Sleepy Hollow." Plus, the East-hampton Witch Elizabeth Garlick, accused and tried 35 years before the Salem witch trials.

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PARANORMAL STORM

The Portal That Appeared in the Rain

By Rainbow Radaelli

Something happened to me last month that shocked me but for a very unusual reason. It wasn't because it was unnerving, but more so because something wanted to get my attention — plus "it" seemed to know where I lived. Here's what happened.

A summer storm rolled into my hometown with an electric intensity that raised the hairs on the back of my neck. Thunder and lightning were the star performers that night with the wind howling like a banshee, announcing their arrival. Rain pummeled the roof with a cacophonous fervor.

The thunder followed by lightning was slightly ominous. Within my sense of repose, I felt an unease; it was like an impending event slowly touching my inner core. I knew then and there that I was no longer alone. Something wanted to show itself to me.

The wind was my first warning that something was amiss. At times, huge gusts of wind came roaring through, only to slow down to allow the rain to drench the surrounding landscape.

At the very moment the rain dissipated, the smell of another world crept into the air. The birds, hushed by silence, stopped their singing, and the wind diminished its swirling uproar to a faint stillness — all within the blink of an eye.

There was more within the storm's immense swirling mass that was apparent, and I have to say, if it wasn't for technology, I never would have seen the paranormal present itself to me. If my camera wasn't recording in real time, I would have been clueless.

A Glimpse Through the Veil

I was in my bedroom enjoying the storm when I looked at my computer screen connected to the outside camera. I saw a strange blue iridescent shape start to take form, and in a matter of seconds it completely materialized.

It emanated a strikingly unique and ethereal glow. The shape was like a glowing mushroom in the movie *Avatar*. It didn't quite fit into the landscape and seemed to hover over the road in front of me. At that moment, time stood still.

He stood silently before the glowing veil, not menacing, but as if he had come with purpose — and that purpose was me. (Actual photo)

The road itself was a two-lane thoroughfare in the middle of nowhere. I was isolated, which in its own way always seems to tempt the supernatural. All I had was my wits about me, and at times I couldn't even find them.

I looked at the computer screen and couldn't believe my eyes, so I peeked out the window and saw ... nothing. There was no ethereal mushroom outside my window, but when I looked back at the screen, it was there. It was fully formed, and I knew I was looking at a very strange portal.

To say I was confused would be an understatement. But, thankfully, I had enough sense to take a photograph.

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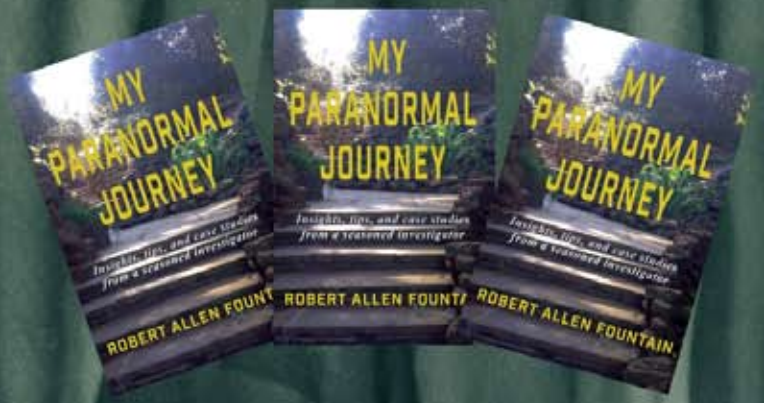
MY PARANORMAL JOURNEY

INSIGHTS, TIPS, AND CASE STUDIES FROM A SEASONED INVESTIGATOR

A NEW BOOK BY ROBERT ALLEN FOUNTAIN



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The mushroom-shaped glow pulsed with an otherworldly light, as if it were breathing the storm itself into being. (Actual photo)

Once I took the picture, something else started to form. And I knew it was something entirely different from the mushroom portal.

The Man in the Storm

As I was looking back and forth, a dark, brownish mass started to slowly materialize in front of the mushroom portal. I couldn't determine if it came from the mushroom portal or if it appeared out of thin air just like the mushroom portal itself. It wasn't ominous, but it seemed to be a part of the storm itself.

The outline of a man started to form. But to my amazement, when I looked out the window for the umpteenth time, there was nothing there. I went back and forth trying to keep my sanity intact. Now, I was getting concerned!

In a split second, the man fully formed, standing and looking right at me. He had on a long duster like the old cowboys used to wear. His hat was between a bolero and a cowboy hat. He had long hair past his shoulders, and he was silhouetted in a dark brown color that emanated out of the glowing mushroom portal — or it could have from him.

He wanted me to see him, and I felt an overwhelming desire to hide ... but I knew it was too late. I again looked out my window and saw nothing, but the interesting thing was that I didn't think I was in any danger.

I kept asking myself this question, "How on earth could these things be on my computer screen but not in real life?"

Dissolution and Departure

In the distance, lights from the road started to get closer, and I knew a car would eventually come up the road toward my house. The mushroom portal and man were still in the road — well at least that's how it looked on my screen.

As the car got closer, I knew it was going to turn on the side road by my house. I waited on baited breath to see what the driver would do once they got close enough. Would they get a sense of what I was seeing on my computer screen?

The car put its blinker on to turn alongside the road to my house, and I must say that I felt a great sense of joy at no longer being alone. The car turned, and just before it drove through, the mushroom portal slowly dissolved into the air — like water droplets turning into mist.

The man soared into the sky with remarkable speed, transforming into a flock of ravens that took flight heading west. I blinked in shock and disbelief. The car went by as if nothing was happening.

I had to ask myself: Did I really see what I thought I just saw? But then I remembered that I took two photographs, one of the mushroom portal and another of the dark mass of the man beginning to materialize. I was thankful that I had the presence of mind to take both photographs.

The Fever and the Message

Two days after the experience ... I got sick. On the second day, within a 12-hour period, I was in bed with a fever that rushed through my entire body. It was worse than anything I had experienced with Covid. It took me four weeks to recover, but when I did, something strange happened. I felt healthier than I had in years.

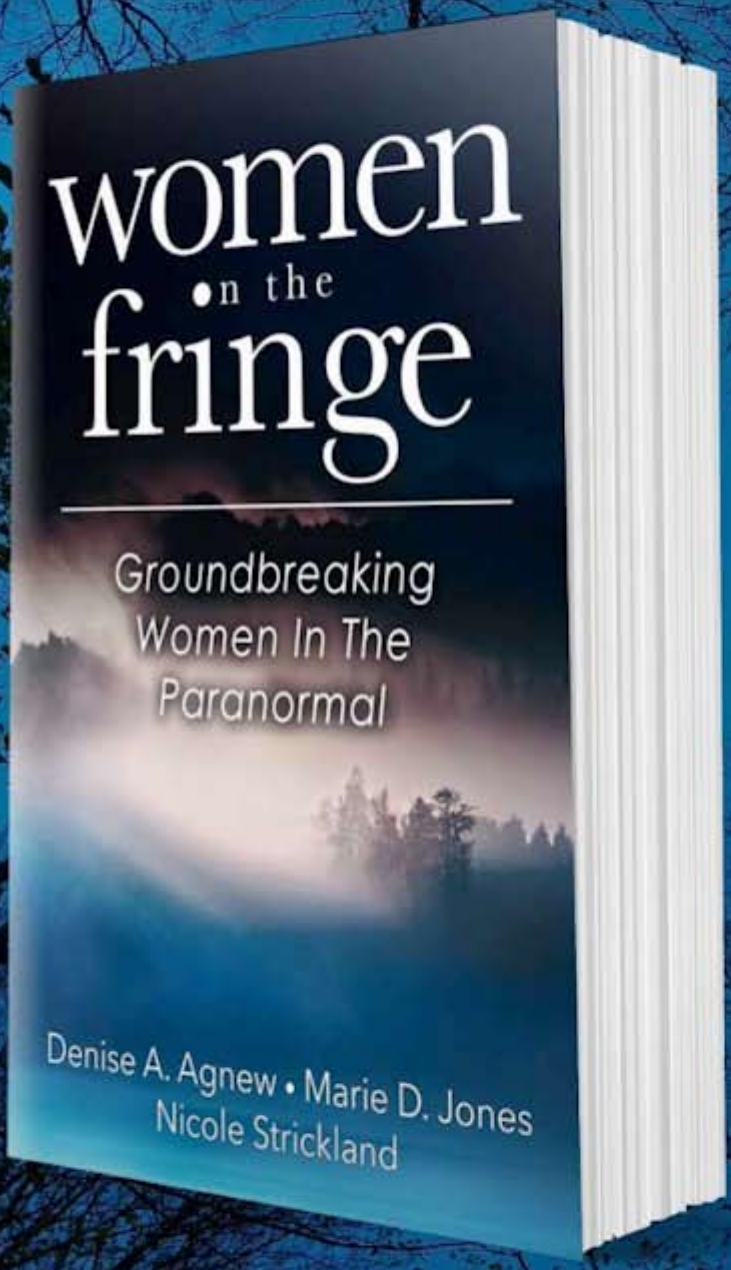
Update!

Just recently, I was told in the dream world that the man came to help get something out of my body that would have eventually crippled me for the rest of my life. I guess I'm sharing this experience with all of you to let him know how grateful I am.

This experience illustrated that not all storms are alike. Within the tumultuous clouds of thunder and lightning, there can be unexpected and positive surprises. The beauty of glory is a remarkable revelation, and I was reminded of this truth.

Nature after all is the hallmark of God's greatest gift to humans. But I have to ask, are portals and supernatural beings the next level of blessings? You be the judge. ◆

"Five stars! Fascinating!"
Karen Mueller Bryson
USA Today Best-Selling Author



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SECRETS, SPIRITS & SOLDIERS

The Strange Case of the Gulf Breeze Six

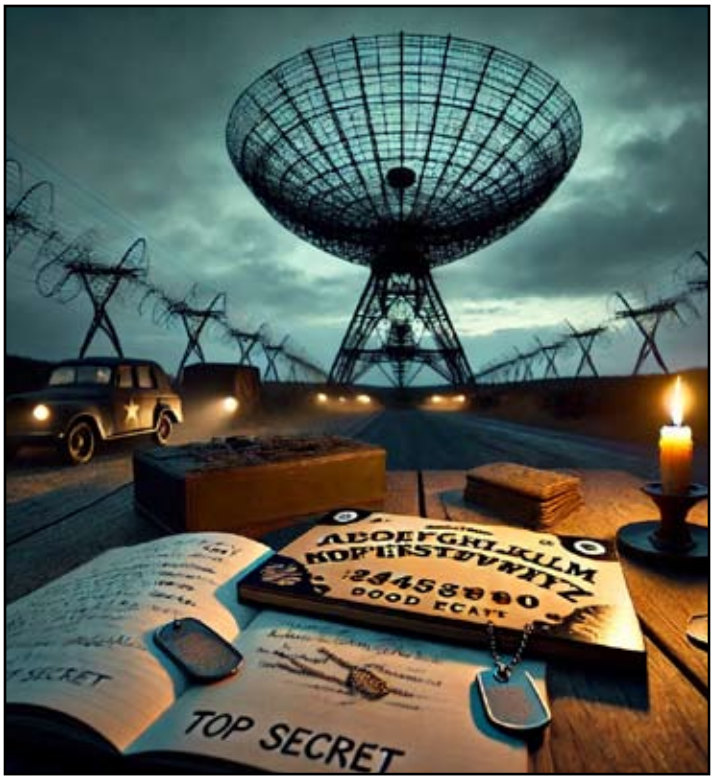
By Cheryl Lynn Carter

The United States Army Security Agency's Field Station Augsburg was located in Augsburg, West Germany. The 713th Military Intelligence Battalion's mission was to monitor the communications of Soviet nations and their allies around the world.

They used Radio Direction Finding (RDF) with a Wullenweber AN/FLR-9 antenna array. The information gathered was time sensitive — collected, analyzed, and passed through the proper intelligence channels in real-time basis.

Sgt. Annette Eccleston, 22, of Hartford, CT; Specialist Vance A. Davis, 25, of Valley Center, KS; Specialist Kenneth G. Beason, 26, of Middlesboro, TN; Pfc. Michael Hueckstaedt, 19, of Farson WY; Pfc. Kris Perlock, 20, of Osceola, WI; and Pfc. William Setterberg, 20, of Pittsburg, PA — all with top secret clearance and fluency in the cryptographic language of global surveillance — were part of the 701st Military Intelligence Brigade.

As the group became better acquainted, they found that they shared a common interest in spirituality, including parapsychology, ESP, spirits, and tarot cards. Specialist Davis had once taken a course in Silva Mind Control, a course that claims to help develop higher brain functions and psychic abilities such as clairvoyance. Specialist Benson dabbled in hypnosis and was very interested in otherworldly beings.



Shared Curiosities and Spiritual Experiments

In November 1989, the group began conducting secret meetings to explore states of consciousness through the use of hypnosis. They hoped to find out if other realms existed. When they didn't achieve the desired results, they turned to a Ouija Board; a board with the alphabet and other signs on it that is used with a planchette to seek messages from other realms.

In the months that followed, they began to communicate with several entities. The entities began predicting events such as the Gulf War, the 1990 Iran earthquake, and the eruption of Mount Rainier in Washington. They warned of UFO cover-ups conducted by the government and malevolent forces operating covertly within the government.

As they continued to "speak" through the Ouija Board, several entities came through. Some were thought to be spirits while others were thought to be extraterrestrials, such as Safire, who claimed she came from a planet 45 light years from Earth.

One spirit in particular said they were the Virgin Mary. It was soon apparent to them that the board was a genuine conduit to the spiritual dimension. Believing

The Gulf Breeze Six were U.S. Army intelligence soldiers who went AWOL from a secret NSA post in 1990, claiming they were guided by divine forces and drawn to UFO revelations.

the messages were divine prophecies, they began to place more trust in the entities. Throughout their many interactions, they took copious notes — 1,600 pages to be exact.

Desertion and a Mission From Beyond

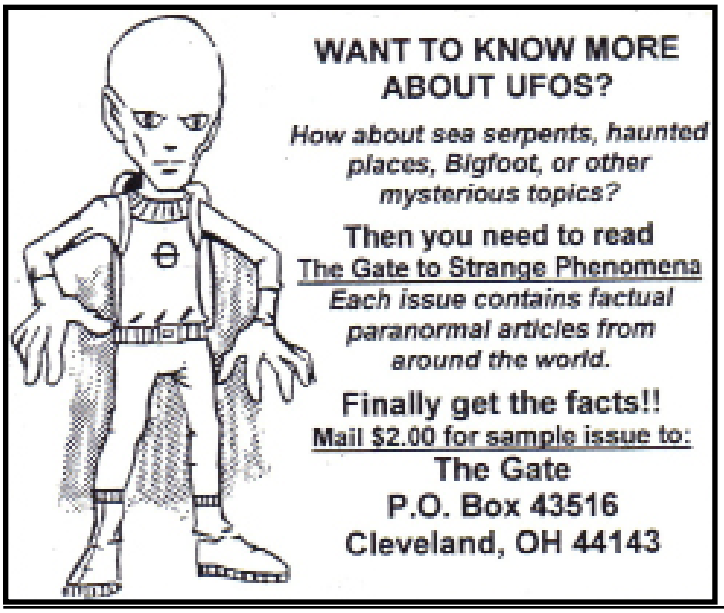
At the end of May 1990, the group was told it was imperative that they find a way to leave the Army. Some very serious events were about to occur in the next five years. Being in the Army would hinder them from reaching the full potential of their higher self. They were chosen and destined to prepare the world for the upcoming Rapture.

Davis couldn't find a legal way for them to leave the Army and once again consulted the Ouija Board. The planchette spelled out, "Leave ... just leave." They were not prepared for that answer but decided to put their faith in the "messenger" that everything would work out.

It was thought that Hueckstaedt and Perlock were on authorized leave from their unit. When they had not returned, it was determined the papers had been forged. They were the first ones reported absent without leave. On July 9, 1990, the four others were all reported AWOL too.

By the time they were discovered missing, they had already boarded a Delta Airlines flight to the McGee-Tyson Airport in Knoxville, Tennessee. Several weeks prior, Beason had called his friend Stan Johnson to ask him to pick him up at the airport and help find a used van that several people could ride in. Johnson picked up him and Hueckstaedt at the airport, and took them to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where they found a used Volkswagen van which they purchased.

Then they headed to Gulf Breeze, Florida, to meet with the other four, who had taken a different flight so as not to cause suspicion. There they would all meet at the home of another friend, Anna Foster, who was a psychic. Most of them had done their basic training at Curtiss Station, located at the nearby Naval Air Station Pensacola, and were familiar with the area.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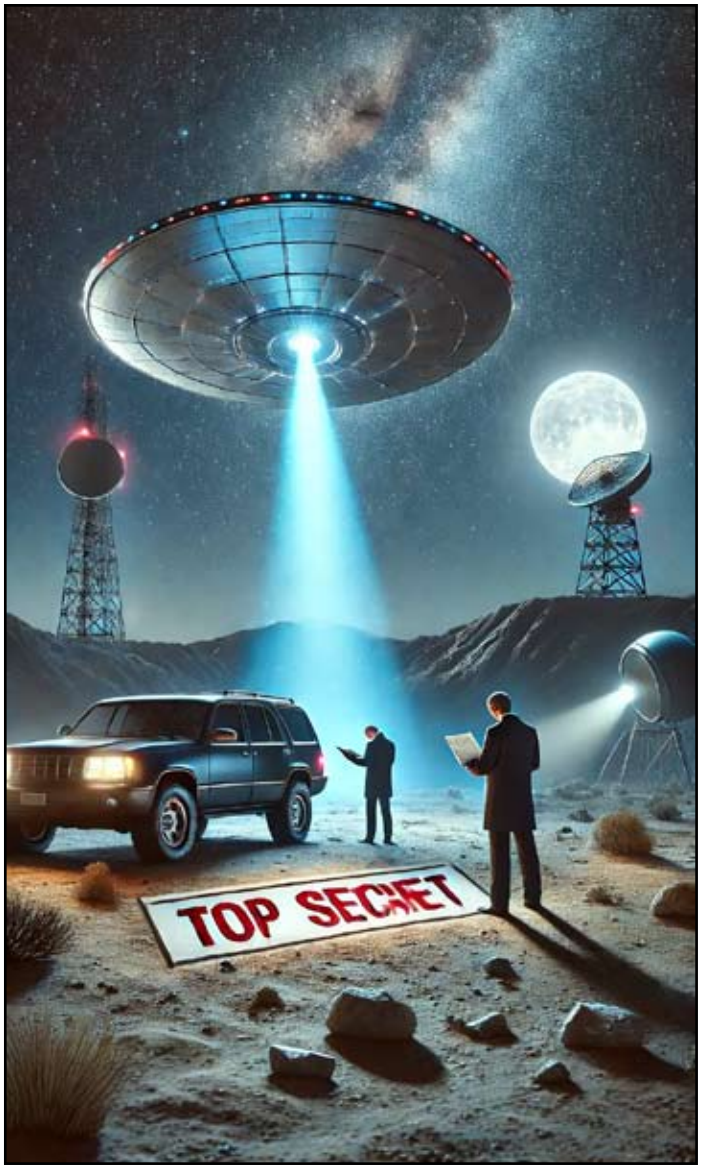

Their new mission was to deliver important information received from the entities to the U.S. president. They intended to expose a government cover-up of reports that aliens had visited Earth. Then the plan was to lay low in the western woods for a few months.

However, only five days later, a broken tail light on the van resulted in Officer Don Stevens conducting a routine traffic stop. Hueckstaedt, who had no identification with him, and Beason were detained when a computer check indicated they were wanted by Interpol for desertion. They were taken to police headquarters.

On July 14, two FBI Agents and Captain Kenneth Hick of the Gulf Breeze Police went to the home of Anna Foster. There they found the other soldiers with several duffle bags, briefcases, $4,000 in cash, and a copy of the "Cooper Report," said to be obtained from Ashtar Command — a so-called benevolent extraterrestrial federation believed by some to be guiding Earth's spiritual evolution.

However, Chief Jerry Brown received a phone call from the Pentagon telling him that he was not to question anyone in the group. Instead, they were to be turned over to the CIA and FBI before going to Fort Benning, Georgia.

Cover-ups, Discharges, and Lingering Questions

The group was taken to Fort Benning in Georgia to be questioned concerning desertion and espionage. From there they were sent to Fort Knox in Kentucky. Major Joe Padilla, an Army spokesman for the Pentagon, originally told newspapers the soldiers were members of a group known as "The End of the World." He later retracted his statement.

The Army offered them a non-judicial punishment; no trial by court-martial after an investigation by Army Intelligence found no evidence of espionage. Within days, they were released without further action and given Honorable Discharges from the Army.

Why would deserters be given an Honorable Discharge? What did they know? How did they know it? Furthermore, why did the government suddenly stop its investigation? Some believe the Army feared the incident would fuel conspiracy theories or even encourage similar behavior among other service members. Or did the soldiers stumble across something they weren't supposed to see? Was silencing the story more important to the Army than exposing it?

What was the mysterious Cooper Report? Some suggest it was a document that contained sensitive information about UFOs, extraterrestrial contact protocols, and covert military operations.

Classified documents, including the 1,600 pages of the Gulf Breeze Six, were finally declassified. However, 1,400 pages were redacted.

Was the investigation stopped as the result of an anonymous teletype message that was sent to Gulf Breeze news offices? UFO researcher Jacques Vallée believes it to be true. It full in reads: "ABC, NBC, CBS, AP, and UPI to the U.S. Army: Free the Gulf Breeze Six. We have the missing plans, the box of 500+ photos and the plans you want back. Here is proof with close-ups cut out. Next we send the close-ups and then everything unless they are released. Answer code AUGSBB3CM."

The U.S. Army never explained why the case was dropped. The CIA never commented. And the public never saw the unredacted 1,600 pages. In the end, we're left with more questions than answers — and the lingering possibility that something extraordinary really did occur.◆

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